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Identical letters dated 26 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 26 June 2000 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 17 to 23 June 2000 they carried out 178 sorties, 66 of them from Saudi Arabia, 38 from Kuwait and 74 from Turkey. Three citizens were injured in these attacks, during which the aircraft released a total of seven heat flares. The Minister goes on to call for your intervention with a view to halting such aggression, and he affirms Iraq's inalienable right to defend its territorial integrity and to seek compensation for the damage done by this aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 26 June 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 178 sorties in the period from 17 to 23 June 2000, 66 of them from Saudi Arabia, 38 from Kuwait and 74 from Turkey, as shown hereunder. Three civilian residents were injured in these attacks and seven heat flares were released, three over Jabal Maqlub and four in the area of Saddam dam.

1. In the northern region 74 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1045 hours on 19 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16 and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Zakho and Irbil areas. These aircraft released three heat flares over Jabal Maqlub. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1350 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1015 hours on 20 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16 and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Aqrah, Ayn Zalah, Sinjar, Zakho and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1315 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1000 hours on 21 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Rawanduz, Zakho and Irbil areas. These aircraft released four heat flares in the area of Saddam dam. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1330 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1115 hours on 22 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Mosul, Ayn Zalah, Zakho and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1415 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 104 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 2150 hours on 17 June 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated

Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 21 missions, 18 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Diwaniyah, Amarah, Ashbajah, Taqtaqanah, Najaf, Hayy, Qal'at Sukkar, Lasaf and Jalibah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2305 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 2120 hours on 18 June 2000, United States and British F-14 and F-15 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 12 missions, six of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Najaf, Basrah, Salman, Diwaniyah, Amarah and Kut areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2235 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1725 hours on 19 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15 and F-16 aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 36 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 20 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Shinafiyah, Nasiriyah, Qurnah, Basrah, Salman, Najaf, Busayyah, Artawi, Jalibah, Afak and Amarah areas. These aircraft attacked civilian and services-related installations, injuring three civilian residents. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1835 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 2335 hours on 20 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out eight missions, two of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah and Amarah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0040 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 0005 hours on 21 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 24 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and two from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Najaf, Nasiriyah, Salman, Basrah, Diwaniyah, Samawah, Hayy and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0230 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that

has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these acts of wanton aggression, urges you to intervene with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to end their aggression and to respect the norms of international law and the sovereignty of Iraq.

(*Signed*) Tariq **Aziz**
Deputy Prime Minister
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs